Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Japanese Patent Application 11182154A describes a water barrier plate [[hat]] that moves vertically with the movement of a flexible door extending around the walls of a stall within a bathroom. The door is opened by moving the flexible door so that a space between its opposite ends is aligned with an opening in the walls, with pins at these opposite ends moving the water barrier plate downward into a slot within the threshold as the door is fully opened. The door is closed by moving the flexible door so that the space between these opposite ends is aligned within the walls, with these pins moving the water barrier plate upward within the slot. What is needed is a water barrier that can be moved out of the way without causing the barrier to retract into a slot extending downward within the floor, so that there is no need to weaken the floor structure with such a slot, and so that the apparatus can be readily installed in an existing building. Additionally, what is needed is an apparatus operable with a conventional sliding door, in which the entire door moves to one side of a passageway as it is opened.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 11 is a partly sectional plan view showing a cross-section of the sliding door 12, together with a plan view of a latch lever 192 turning the crank 174 by means of a shaft extending downward between the lever 192 and the crank 174, being pivotally mounted in a bearing block 196 attached to the wall 128 and in a bearing plate 198 attached to the floor 20. Preferably, the bearing plate 198 also includes a pair of tabs 200 limiting the rotational movement of the crank 174. As the latch lever 192 moves from the position in which it is shown into the position indicated by dashed lines 202, the crank 174 is moved from the position in which it is shown into the position indicated by dashed lines 186, so that the compressible gasket 70 or 168 is clamped by the clamping plate 56. As the latch lever 192 is then returned to the position in which it is shown, the compressible gasket 70 or 168 is released. Preferably, the latch lever 192 also includes a locking pawl 204, which ~~slops~~ stops movement of the sliding door 12 from its closed position by contacting a stop plate 206 attached to the door 12 when the latch lever is in the position indicated by dashed lines 202.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The second alternative actuator 210 includes an elongated bar 236 and a pair of ramp structures 238, which are disposed along the

actuator 210 to move between the opposing rollers 214 and 220 as the actuator 210 is moved in the engagement direction of arrow 240. The rollers 214 are held in contact with the actuator 210 by means of a number of springs (not shown), which act in the manner of springs 68, described above in reference to FIG. 3. Thus, when the actuator 210 is pulled in the engagement direction of arrow 240 the compression panel 212 moves in the direction of arrow 234. For example, the flexible member 36 is directed around a floor-mounted pulley 242 to be attached to the actuator 210 by means of a screw 244, so that the actuator 210 is moved in the direction of arrow 240 in response to upward movement of the latch lever 34, as described above in reference to FIGS 6 and 7. This movement of the compression panel 212 in the direction of arrow 234 compresses a compressible gasket 70 in the manner described above in reference to FIGS. 1-4. An actuator spring 246 is provided to maintain tension within the flexible member 36 and to return the actuator 210 in the direction opposite that of arrow [[234]] 240.